



1-21-04
Am/r
15/c

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/803,560
Applicant(s): Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and Yasushi
WATANABE
For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING A HOLLOW
RACK SHAFT
Confirmation No.: 7306
Customer No.: 24731
Docket No.: 18733/00040
Filed: March 9, 2001
Group Art Unit: 3726
Examiner: Marc Q. Jimenez (re-assigned from Percy W.
Echols)

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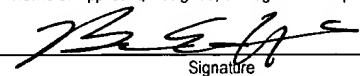
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

December 18, 2003
Date of Deposit

Brian E. Harris
Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative


Signature

December 18, 2003
Date of Signature

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated August 18, 2003, which provides for a response period ending November 18, 2003.

A Petition for Extension of Time, to extend the response period for the Office Action, dated August 18, 2003, for one additional month to December 18, 2003, is being filed concurrently.

Application No.: 09/803,560
Amendment dated December 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2003

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: